

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus comprising:

an insertion hole into which ~~a first memory card is inserted for recording copyright-protected contents or a second memory card is inserted for recording copyright-unprotected contents~~ is inserted a first memory card being a copyright-protected memory card and a second memory card being a copyright-unprotected memory card, the first and second memory cards being substantially the same in shape;

~~judging means for judging whether a memory card inserted into said insertion hole is said first memory card or said second memory card~~ the inserted memory card is copyright-protected when a normal response is obtained within a predetermined period of time during an authorization process;

recording means which, if said judging means judges that said first memory card is inserted prior to recording copyright-unprotected contents, then said recording means temporarily records said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card for a predetermined period of time; and

controlling means which, if said second memory card is inserted into the insertion hole after said recording means has recorded said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card, said controlling means automatically transfers the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to the inserted second memory card.

2. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said insertion hole has a plurality of slots into which a plurality of memory cards may be inserted concurrently.

3. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said insertion hole has a single slot which accommodates only one memory card and into which said first memory card is inserted to have said copyright-unprotected contents recorded thereto by said recording means, before said first memory card is removed from said insertion hole and replaced by said second memory card inserted therein.

4. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copyright-protected contents include a copyright-protected file storing at least one of three categories of contents composed of music, videos, and games, provided by copyright holders.

5. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copyright-unprotected contents are constituted by copyright-free software.

6. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said copyright-free software is made up of privately produced contents.

7. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controlling means transfers the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to said second

memory card inserted in said insertion hole, before erasing said copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card.

8. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising comparing means for comparing a recordable capacity of said second memory card inserted in said insertion hole with the capacity of said copyright-unprotected contents recorded in said first memory card;

wherein said controlling means permits the transfer of the recorded contents between the memory cards if said recordable capacity of said second memory card is judged to be greater than the capacity of the recorded copyright-unprotected contents in said first memory card upon comparison by said comparing means, said controlling means inhibiting said transfer if said recordable capacity of said second memory card is judged to be less than the capacity of the recorded copyright-unprotected contents in said first memory card upon comparison by said comparing means.

9. (Original) A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a microphone;
A/D converting means for converting an analog audio signal picked up by said microphone into a digital audio signal; and
compression processing means for subjecting to a predetermined compression process said digital audio signal following the conversion by said A/D converting means;
wherein the compressed digital audio signal from said compression processing means is recorded to said second memory card as copyright-unprotected contents.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording method for use with a terminal apparatus comprising an insertion hole into which ~~a first memory card is inserted for recording copyright-protected contents or a second memory card is inserted for recording copyright-unprotected contents~~ is inserted a first memory card being a copyright-protected memory card and a second memory card being a copyright-unprotected memory card, the first and second memory cards being substantially the same in shape, said recording method comprising the steps of:

judging whether ~~a memory card inserted into said insertion hole is said first memory card or said second memory card~~ the inserted memory card is copyright-protected when a normal response is obtained within a predetermined period of time during an authorization process;

if said first memory card is judged to be inserted prior to recording copyright-unprotected contents by a recording means, then said recording means temporarily records said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card for a predetermined period of time; and

if said second memory card is inserted into the insertion hole after said copyright-unprotected contents have been recorded to said first memory card by a controlling means, said controlling means automatically transfers the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to the inserted second memory card.

11. (Original) A recording method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of transferring the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to said second memory card inserted in said insertion hole, before erasing said copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card.

12. (Original) A recording method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

comparing a recordable capacity of said second memory card inserted in said insertion hole with the capacity of said copyright-unprotected contents recorded in said first memory card; permitting the transfer of the recorded contents between the memory cards if said recordable capacity of said second memory card is judged to be greater than the capacity of the recorded copyright-unprotected contents in said first memory card upon comparison; and inhibiting said transfer if said recordable capacity of said second memory card is judged to be less than the capacity of the recorded copyright-unprotected contents in said first memory card following the comparison.

13-24. (Canceled)